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CLAIMS:

1. A topical formulation for the treatment of a dermatological condition which comprises a macrocyclic lactone antibiotic, immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof; characterized in that it further comprises a permeation modulator and the permeation modulator and the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or macrolide or the pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof are present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.
2. A formulation according to claim 1 comprising up to 10% by weight of the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or the immunosuppressive macrolide or analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof; the permeation modulator being present at 1 to 60% by weight.
3. A formulation according to either claim 1 or 2 wherein the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic is selected from erythromycin, azithromycin or clarithromycin.
4. A formulation according to either claim 1 or 2 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is selected from sirolimus, FK506 or SDZ ASM 981.
5. A formulation according to any preceding claim wherein the permeation modulator is an alkanolic acid or alkenic acid.
6. A formulation according to claim 5 wherein the alkanolic acid or alkenic acid is selected from capric acid, octanoic acid, oleic such acid or acids of intermediate chain length.

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7. A formulation according to any preceding claim wherein the dermatological condition is selected from psoriasis, alopecia, eczema dermatitis, lichen planus, lupus erthematosus, pyoderma gangrenosum, vitiligo, graft versus
5 host disease, pustular skin infections, bacterial skin infections or acne vulgaris.
8. A formulation according to claim 7 wherein the dermatological condition is eczema dermatitis and the
10 concentration of macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or immunosuppressive macrolide is 0.05% to 2% by weight.
9. A formulation according to any preceding claim wherein the permeation modulator is used in conjunction with a solvent
15 system.
10. A formulation according to claim 9 wherein the solvent system comprises an aromatic alcohol or a biologically acceptable benzene derivative, with or without an admixture
20 of monoglycerides and/or a fatty acid ester.
11. A formulation according to either claim 9 or 10 wherein the permeation modulator comprises capric acid and the solvent system comprises benzyl alcohol.
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12. A formulation according to any of claims 8 to 11 wherein the concentration of the solvent system is 5% to 90% by weight.
- 30 13. A formulation according to any preceding claim further comprising a thickening agent.
14. A formulation according to claim 13 wherein the

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thickening agent is selected from white soft paraffin, cetostearyl alcohol, yellow soft paraffin, cetyl alcohol, steryl alcohol, divalent carboxylic acid soaps and carnauber wax.

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15. A topical formulation for the treatment of a dermatological condition which comprises an immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof; characterized in that it further
10 comprises a permeation modulator; and the permeation modulator and the macrolide or the pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof are present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.

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16. A formulation according to either claim 15 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is selected from sirolimus, FK506 or SDZ ASM 981.

20 17. A formulation according to claim 16 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is sirolimus.

18. The use in the manufacture of a topical composition for the treatment of a dermatological condition of a macrocyclic
25 lactone antibiotic or an immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically acceptable analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof characterised in that it further comprises a permeation modulator and the permeation modulator; the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or the immunosuppressive
30 macrolide or pharmacologically acceptable analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof being present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.

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19. The use of claim 18 wherein the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or immunosuppressive macrolide is present at up to 10% by weight of the composition.
- 5 20. The use of an immunosuppressant macrolide, a macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or a pharmacologically active analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof in the preparation of a topical formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17.
- 10 21. A method for the treatment of a disease of the skin or mucosa which comprises applying thereto a topical composition comprising a macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or an immunosuppressive macrolide or a pharmacologically acceptable analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof; characterised in
15 that it further comprises a permeation modulator; and the permeation modulator, the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or the immunosuppressive macrolide or pharmacologically acceptable analogue, derivative or pro-drug thereof is present in relative amounts such that when a therapeutic amount is
20 applied to the skin a minimal systemic effect is produced.
22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the macrocyclic lactone antibiotic or immunosuppressive macrolide is present at up to 10% by weight of the composition.
- 25 23. A method according to claim 21 or 22 wherein the immunosuppressive macrolide is utilized.

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